

## Minutes

### **Judicial Education Committee**

Friday, October 14, 2005

Indiana Supreme Court Conference Room, Room 1371  
National City Center

1. **Committee members present:** Earl Penrod (Chair), Chris Burnham, Barbara Collins, Darrin Dolehanty, Bob Freese, Barbara Arnold Harcourt, Jane Magnus-Stinson, John Rader, Ted Todd, Jim Williams, Jane Spencer Craney, and Mike Witte.
2. **Staff present:** Cathy Springer, Vicki Davis, and Anne Jordan.
3. **Welcome of New Members:** The committee welcomed John Rader, Warren Circuit Court to the committee. Judge Penrod announced that two former committee members, Jim Williams and Jane Spencer Craney, have returned to the fold.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the May meeting were approved as submitted.
5. **Review of 2005 September Judicial Conference:** The committee discussed the September conference and reviewed the evaluations.
  - a. Staff reported a total of 484 judicial officers attended the annual meeting.
  - b. The committee discussed the hotel facilities. A number of issues came up including the set-up of the Wednesday plenary session room which was cramped due to the room size and numbers attending the conference.
  - c. The evaluations for the individual sessions were all positive and highly rated. The committee generally agreed the conference was meeting the committee's goals and expectations. The program offered fewer overall sessions but more "repeat" opportunities for attendees. A suggestion was made to offer some "sequels or follow-up" sessions at the 2006 Spring Judicial College program.
  - d. The committee discussed the problem of Friday attendance drop-off and concluded that decreased attendance probably could not be avoided. A suggestion was made to include an ethics program on Friday as a means of combating the decreased attendance issue. The committee also briefly discussed moving the event to Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday time slot but decided that there would be third day attendance drop-off no matter when the event was held.
  - e. The committee brainstormed ideas to improve the plenary sessions. Some of the suggestions included: district "best practices" reports (i.e., the coolest or neatest thing happening in your district); using "shills" in the audience for participatory interaction or questions; and a keynote "event" instead of a keynote speaker.
  - f. The "hospitality guys" (Bob Freese and Darrin Dolehanty) reported that the IJA hospitality suite was packed both nights. Everyone agreed the IJA-sponsored hospitality suite greatly fosters collegiality and fellowship among the judicial officers.
6. **Upcoming Programs in 2005:**
  - a. The City and Town Court program is scheduled for October 20-21. Sixty-four of the 75 city/town court judges have registered for the conference. Staff asked committee members whether they have experienced any issues or concerns with "due process" procedures being

employed by their local city or town courts. Approximately ½ of the judges are not law trained. None were mentioned. Mike Witte noted the city/town court judges association approached the commission on courts about making these courts “courts of record.” Judge Harcourt suggested developing a CD on due process procedures along with hard copy written materials that could be distributed to the judges.

b. Domestic Relations Workshop is scheduled for November 17-18 on “The Psychological Aspects of Child Custody.” Attendance is limited to 65, and is now full.

c. The Winter Conference is scheduled for December 9. The topic is Judicial Independence. Staff is working with Professor Charles Geyh at the I.U. School of Law in Bloomington to further develop the topic. The goal is to provide an awareness of the threats to judicial independence and strategies to address them. Issues such as declining respect for the judiciary, dealing with negative media attention, and a discussion of the process of appointing two new justices to the U.S. Supreme Court were all mentioned. This conference may qualify for Special Masters credit.

**7. Program Schedule for 2006**

a. An Orientation for Recently Appointed Judicial Officers is scheduled for February 1-3. A tentative schedule was handed out and approved. There are 25 new judicial officers recently appointed to the bench, due to retirements and the creation of new courts. The Committee was asked to consider serving as observers and faculty as needed.

b. The Spring Judicial College is April 19-21.

c. The Graduate Program is June 4-9, and is the first year of a two-year program.

d. The Annual Meeting of Juvenile Court Judicial Officers is June 22-23.

e. The Annual Judicial Conference is September 13-15 in South Bend.

f. The Pre-Bench orientation is December 6-7.

g. The Winter Conference is December 8.

**8. Additional Items for discussion**

a. The Conclave on Legal Education, celebrating 20 years of CLE, is being held at Valparaiso University School of Law on March 16-17. Judge Penrod is serving as faculty and submitting a Law Review article, which he agreed to circulate once in final form.

b. A senior judge has requested the opportunity to participate in the Masters Program. The current policy is that this program is open only to sitting judges, mainly because of the requirement to attend the Graduate Program, which is *not* open to senior judges. Discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

**9. The next meeting of the Committee will be on Friday, January 20, 2006, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Jordan, Program Attorney